undertakes investigation into the cost structure of the sugar industry. The BICP in its Report submitted in November, 1990 did not favour creation of more Sub-zones. Accordingly this matter was not pursued further.

Protection of Animals in Kaziranga National Park

1139. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMR PATEL:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Poachers kill 17 rhinos in Kaziranga" appearing in The Hindu dated December 11, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the population of rhinos and deer in Kaziranga National Park during 1990, 1991 and 1992; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve and protect animals in this park?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Poaching of rhinos for horns and the recurrent floods continue to pose a serious problem of conserving and protecting the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. According to the information provided by the Chief Wildlife Warden Assam, during 1991, upto 10.12.1991, 19 rhinos were poached in the area, including 4 killed outside the Park. The Park protection staff succeeded in recovering 8 horns from the above poaching cases.

(c) It has been reported by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam, that during the census carried out in March, 1991, there were 2995 deer and more than 1120 rhinos in the Kaziranga National Park. No such census has been done in 1990 or in 1992. In 1990, however, the population of rhinos in the Park was estimated to be 1250.

(d) Steps taken/proposed to be taken to preserve and protect animals in the Park include:

(i) The anti-poaching measures, including the deployment of additional protection staff equipped with arms, wireless sets, vehicles, boats, etc., have been stepped up.

(ii) Government of India under the Centrally sponsored scheme "Conservation of rhinos in Assam", which was launched in the 7th Plan, have been providing financial assistance to the Government of Assam to strengthen anti-poaching measures and effectively protect and develop the Kaziranga National Park and other areas in Assam containing rhinos. A system of rewards and incentives for obtaining intelligence about poachers has also been introduced under this scheme. Steps to protect the animals of the Kaziranga National Park from floods have also been taken.

(iii) A number of endangered species found in the Park like the rhino, tiger elephant, wild buffalo, swamp deer, hoolook gibbon etc. are included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus bringing them under maximum possible legal protection. The Act has also been amended to provide deterrent punishment against poaching

of wildlife or causing any disturbance to the Park.

(iv) Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme "Control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products", assistance is provided to the State Government of Assam to take effective steps to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife outside the national parks and sanctuaries. Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, there is a complete ban on hunting of wildlife.

(v) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) under which international trade in endangered animals like the rhino, tiger, elephant, etc., is prohibited.

Financial assistance from ADB

1140. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has recently approved a loan for development of the Railways, especially to augment the carrying capacity and improve efficiency on the Northern Railway and New Delhi and Calcutta route;

(b) if so, the quantum of the loan and the details of the projects to be financed therewith; and

(c) the terms of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). ADB recently approved a Loan of $ 225 million which covers the following:

(1) Line capacity expansion:

(i) Electrification of Patratu-Sonnagar Section on Eastern Railway.

(ii) Construction of an electrified 3rd line on Sonnagar-Mughalsarai section of Eastern Railway.

(2) Procurement of 5000 high capacity BG bogie wagons (BOXN)

(3) Procurement of Unit Exchange Spares for Electric Locomotives.

(c) This loan has been extended to Government of India (Ministry of Finance) on standard terms.

Lalitpur-Singrauli Line

1141. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 17th December, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 4113 regarding Lalitpur-Singrauli line in Madhya Pradesh and state:

(a) the date on which survey for Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line was started; and

(b) the details of the survey work carried out so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Survey work for Lalitpur-Singrauli New railway line has been taken up in April 1990 and it is likely to be completed during 1992-93.

Sanskrit Vidyalayas in the Country

1142. SHRI KRISHNA DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: